

9-6 Higashifushimi Kodan  
Fujimachi, Hoya-city  
Tokyo  
February 8, 1977

Dear Jess,

My heart was filled with delight to receive your letter of December 18, 1976 and a copy of M.E.S. Amies! A thousand thanks for them. They were really wonderful surprise! I'm so happy to know you still remember me and write to me. I never thought Helen Gould and myself are "two stray sheep" of Class '39.

I am a very bad letter writer and have missed many good opportunities to write to you girls, to Miss Somers, Miss Layton, Mrs. Raymer, and to Miss Jackson, too, when the war was over and I found myself somehow survived. I don't like to believe--but is it true that we could no longer hear from Miss Jackson?

I am so glad to know that the other staff are all fine, Miss Layton in particular, to whom I owe so much. I could never forget the drive she took me for hours and a nice warm dinner she gave me at her home with her mother on one evening in September, 1939 when I was told by the medical doctor to go straight back home as I had T.B., giving up my plan to stay another year or two in the States. I remember every single word she said to me then, without which I must have lost courage to overcome deep sorrow and disappointment I had then.

I often think of you at Margaret Easton School, my wonderful days in Toronto. Sometimes, I find myself humming "Stand up and cheer for old M.E.S." They were the best days in my life, the happiest days in my youth.

I left Japan a week before the war broke out in China in 1937. When I arrived in Seattle, Washington in early July and was walking along the street on the day I got there, I felt some boys spitting at me with the words "a Jap." I didn't know anything about what my country was doing then in China.

I arrived in Toronto in September after two months of life at Y.W.C.A. camps in Seattle and Tacoma, and the school started at Lake Kuchichin and then in the city. I was never called "a Jap," I was never made uneasy just because my country was making the terrible war upon China as an aggressor nation. My days with you were just as nice as they could be. I was treated in the same way as you girls. This I will never forget--warm hospitality and deep sympathy of the staff and warm friendship extended from girls of M.E.S.



In summer 1938, Miss Kaufman (a lady who helped me to attend M.E.S.) thought I should have known exactly what my country was doing then. I was sent to the World Youth Congress held at Vassa College, Poukipsee, where I met tens and hundreds of Chinese and Korean boys and girls denouncing the aggressive war by Japanese military Government. For the first time I learned about the massacre, rapes, plunderers, etc. in Nanking and other Chinese cities and villages. You can easily imagine the shock I had. The papers I used to receive from home were censored by the Army and were unable to carry the truth.

Six years since I came home in early October, 1939 were the worst period for us as we had almost nothing to eat. Foods and clothes were sent to the army in the front in China and in Southern Pacific. As you know Japan was then being defeated gradually and seriously, which was again not known to the public till the last moment--August 15, 1945. Fortunately, our house was not bombed but our neighbourhood was severely air-raided. Many children lost their parents, and then came atomic bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

My elder brother who had been against the Government policy, against that aggressive war, had been imprisoned for more than ten years. Another brother of mine who was then a university student was sent to the front in China and then Burma for more than eight years.

Days after the surrender were had ones, too. The Occupation Forces, particularly the U.S. whose first aim was to annihilate imperialism and militarism to democratize Japan, gradually changed their policy to use Japan as a base for her aggression in other countries. At one time, there were more than 300 U.S. military bases in my country. There were rapings and plunderers. We have learned lots from these experiences.

Now about my own life after the war: I taught physical education at the college I graduated from during the war. My new life, however, started in 1954 when I accompanied Japanese trade union delegation to a world conference held in Vienna as an interpreter. It was a difficult job, but really thrilling. The conference was a great success. I met many workers from France, Italy, Germany who fought against Nazis in extreme difficulties. They had beautiful voice and sung songs of resistance as soon as the sessions were over. The wonderful experiences I had then set me to work as an interpreter for life, visiting almost 15 countries where trade union conferences were held, France, Germany, Indonesia, U.S.A., Czechoslovakia, Poland, USSR, China, etc. These were the second best days of my life because I met many splendid people who made me to think "why and for what aims we live."

I still work as an interpreter, mostly for trade union people but some times for export-import businessmen.

Now about me family:



Kaizo Ishimura: 66 in age, imprisoned several times in his life and has pain around knee-caps due to the torture during his imprisonment

Makoto Ishimura: 29, teaching children, good at mathematics, son

Tamiko Ishimura: daughter, 27.5, librarian at a State university

This has turned out to be a very long letter--a kind of a life history, isn't it? I will write you oftener and shorter from next time. And, if I am all right and can afford it, I may join you at the 40th reunion you were talking about in the M.E.S. Amies. I shall be 65 then and may be too fat to move around!

Enclosed please find some snapshots taken by my friends. Send yours, too.  
With love,

Shigeko Ishimura

My very best wishes to the girls!!



Patty's 1977

Itinerary - 35th M.E.S. Reunion  
June 16-19, Harrison Hot Springs, B.C.

Sunday June 16

Check In - anytime after 2:00 P.M., and take advantage of the Harrison's facilities and programmes. (Tea Time - 4:00 P.M. Daily).

Welcome Cocktail Party - 5:30 P.M.

Dinner at your pleasure, and although not included in the package, can be enjoyed at the Harrison, or at other delightful dining establishments in the Village, such as the Black Forest (specializing in Weiner Schnitzel)!

Monday June 17

Breakfast - either in the Terrace Room, or, if you prefer, by Room Service in your room. (Value - \$3.25 per person).

Relax and enjoy yourself! Explore the hotel grounds and immediate area. Golf or tennis is available, or if you wish, join us in a tour of the surrounding country side, with places such as Hell's Gate in the Fraser Canyon, or Manning Park as possible destinations, with Lunch enroute.

Dinner - Terrace Room or Copper Room. Charges over \$8.50 will be billed to your account.

Tuesday June 18

Breakfast - (as above)

The balance of the day is yours to enjoy, with golf, tennis, swimming and other activities at your disposal. There are two hot pools in the hotel and a large outdoor pool. For the adventuresome, we can arrange a short drive up the Harrison Lake to the Provincial Camp site for a picnic lunch. Hiking and lake swimming or just lazy relaxing on the beach is yours.

Dinner - Farewell dinner in the Copper Room.

Wednesday - June 19

Breakfast - (as above) and checkout.

Option - Cruise of the Gulf Islands with Lunch ashore. See letter for details.  
Late afternoon arrival back in Vancouver.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The above is a basic itinerary and subject to change depending upon your wishes and circumstances beyond our control (such as rain - heaven forbid!)

Dorothy Munsie has planned several interesting activities, but due to delays in our mail service we are unable to list them at this time. When the program is established in detail, an interesting and happy time will be assured.

Our visiting menfolk will not be forgotten, and if possible, we hope to arrange some fishing for them!

5.1



Billy, Mary and  
may call at the Trull Funeral  
Home, 2704 Yonge St. (at  
Alexandra Blvd.) on Monday 7 to 9  
p.m. Funeral Mass at the Church  
of the Blessed Sacrament (Yonge  
St. south of Lawrence) on Tuesday  
morning at 10 o'clock. Interment  
Mount Hope Cemetery. In lieu of  
flowers, a donation to The Cheshire  
Homes Foundation, 90 Thorncliffe  
Park Dr. would be appreciated.

#### **CROSS, Jean**

Suddenly on Saturday, October 22,  
1977. Mrs. A. Jean Cross of Rural  
Route 6, Woodstock, in her 74th  
year. Widow of the late Judge Eric  
W. Cross (1965). And dear mother  
of Dalton of Ottawa and Mrs.  
Daphne Cross Roloff of Chicago.  
Also survived by five  
grandchildren. Resting at the M.D.  
(Mac) Smith Funeral Home, 69  
Wellington St. N., Woodstock,  
Ontario, where a private funeral  
service will be held. Interment  
will be in the Anglican Cemetery,  
Woodstock. Memorial contributions  
to the Ontario Heart Foundation  
would be appreciated.

#### **DENNISTON, George Edward**

(Former employee of Toronto  
Hydro, member of Stevenson and  
Delta Lodges A.F.&A.M., Rani  
Ghar Grotto, Bonar and Parkdale  
Presbyterian Churches) (in his 84th  
year). On Thursday, October 20,  
1977, George Edward Denniston,  
beloved husband of Marguerite  
Pearl (Daly), father of John and  
Walter, brother of Edith Weegan,  
Louise Rollins, Henrietta Hiltgen  
and the late Fred and Bill  
Denniston; grandfather of Douglas,  
John, Robert, Paul and Carol Ann  
McKinnon and Linda Urie; great-  
grandfather of Heather and John  
McKinnon and Mark Urie. Resting  
at the Turner and Porter Yorke  
Chapel, 2357 Bloor St. W., at  
Windermere near the Jane Subway  
from Saturday 1 p.m. Funeral  
service 11 o'clock Monday morning.  
Interment Park Lawn Cemetery.

#### **DREDGE, Edward William**

At Guelph General Hospital on  
Saturday, October 22, 1977, Edward  
William Dredge, beloved husband of  
Vera Beatrice Desand. Dear father  
of Elmer C. and Douglas H. of  
Campbellville and Marilyn Ann of  
Burlington. Brother of Harv of  
Kelvington, Sask., Herbert of  
Nassagaweya, Robert of Milton and  
Isabel (Mrs. Robert Early) of  
Campbellville. Predeceased by Ella  
(Mrs. Bert Ferris). Also loved by  
nine grandchildren. Funeral service  
at Nassagaweya Presbyterian  
Church on Monday at 3:30 p.m.

#### **IRWIN, Ida Mae**

At Toronto, on Saturday, October  
22, 1977, formerly of 155  
Roxborough St. W., dear sister of  
the late J. Oliver Irwin of Blaine,  
Wash., and P. Hyndman, Toronto.  
Friends may call at the funeral  
chapel of A. W. Miles, 30 St. Clair  
Ave. W. Service Tuesday afternoon  
at 12:30 o'clock. Interment Con-  
ningsbay Cemetery, Erin.

#### **LOW, Mary Florence (vanNatter)**

At her home, on Thursday October  
20, 1977, beloved wife of the late  
William St. Clair Low. Dear  
daughter of Leone vanNatter and  
sister of Margaret Pomfret and  
Shirley Russeau. Step-mother of  
Mary Murray, Barbara Boyer, and  
Cathi McLeod. A private funeral  
service was held on Monday  
October 24, 1977. Remembrances  
may be made to the Canadian  
Cancer Society.

#### **MACPHERSON, Muriel Janet**

At her residence in Hamilton on  
Saturday, October 22, 1977, Muriel  
Janet Young, beloved wife of the  
late William James Macpherson,  
beloved mother of Mrs. J. Peter  
Gordon (Joan) of Mississauga, and  
William Douglas of Hamilton.  
Friends may call at the  
Swackhamer and Hiltz-Blachford  
and Wray Funeral Home, 1341 Main  
Street West, Hamilton. Service in  
the chapel on Tuesday at 11:30  
a.m. Interment in Woodland Ceme-  
tery. In lieu of flowers donations  
to St. Peter's Centre would be  
appreciated by the family.

#### **MARRIOTT, Adelaide M., LL.D.**

(nee Heath) in her 95th year.  
Suddenly on Thursday, October 20,  
1977, at Toronto. Dear wife of the  
late Francis Grant Marriott and  
loving mother of Helen (Mrs. Hugh  
Rogers Downie). A funeral service  
will be held at St. James-the-Less  
Chapel, 635 Parliament St. on Mon-  
day afternoon, October 24 at 2:30  
o'clock. No flowers by request.  
Those who wish may make dona-  
tions to the Permanent Collection  
Fund, Ontario Crafts Council, 346  
Dundas St. W., Toronto. (Morley  
Bedford Funeral Directors).

#### **MCCARROLL, Isobel**

Suddenly on Saturday, October 22,  
1977, at Toronto, Isobel Ward, in  
her 80th year, beloved wife of the  
late James McCarroll, dear mother  
of Isobel McCarroll of Detroit, sis-  
ter of Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton and  
the late Mrs. Jean McFarland.  
Resting at Brown Bros. Chapel,  
1812 Eglinton Ave. W. (at Dufferin  
Funeral Home).

#### **RANSO**

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**86**





#3-8 Dufferin St.  
Toronto, N.S. B2N3C9

June 20, 1978

Dear Girls,

You can't imagine how glad I was to have the letter from the mini-reunion of the Class of '39.

I think I can see each one of you, as you were 39 years ago(!), but I wonder how many I would know if I met you on the street, even at the corner of Yonge and McGill! Your letter came on Tuesday and on Sunday I had a call from a P.H.E. graduate of 1947! I feel very rich.

If any of you are down this way, I hope you will look me up. I've been to Jamaica this spring, so I'm likely to be home for the rest of the year. This year anyway!

My best to you all -

Charlotte Layton



Dear Dorothy,

I imagine you were the one who suggested sending me a letter and I certainly appreciated it. It is not likely that I'll thank each one separately, but I mean!

Sometime next year, if I don't forget, I am going to send you my list of the girls of 1939 for you to correct. Probably that is foolish, a hang-over from the days when I sent out the news letter.

Have a nice Summer!

Sincerely,

Charlotte Layton



THE "40TH"

BULLETIN # 1

October 15, 1978

M.E.S. AMIES:

On June 3rd. at Dorothy Cameron's apartment in  
Toronto -

Patty Sterne, Julia Wright, Fran Christie, Kay Marsh, Adrienne Adams, Jan Brown and Marge Fraser and Dorothy met to draft first plans for our 40th. anniversary re-union.

TENTATIVE DATE - SEPTEMBER 11-12-13, seventy-nine

We chose the fall of the year as Jess (Loaring) and John (Eastwood) will have returned from a year in England, and must be included. LOCATION: not far out of Toronto, probably the Muskoka area. The site being dependent upon the resort with the best facilities, such as tennis, golf, swimming, boating, comfortable lodge with fireplace and a

"PIANO"

Winn MacLennan has not yet been able to attend and re-union but she is definitely planning to include our 40th. in her travel schedule, (with Russ) The 35th. re-union at Harrison Hot Springs was such a success. A contributing factor to that success was "THE HUSBANDS":- (Adams' - Barbour's - Hendry's - Loaring's and Sterne's) who were most apprehensive at first, but left enthusiastically looking forward to "THE 40TH".

A highlight of the 40th. will be Shiga coming from Japan! Enclosed is a copy of the very interesting letter Jess received from Shiga and we learned at Dorothy's luncheon that Patty's son-in-law spent a fascinating few days with her in Japan; which has further whetted our appetites to have her back in our midst.

We hope that those of you who will be coming from a distance will not only make this a trip to the 40th. but also a family holiday (offspring not excluded) complete with visits to those of us who live in Ontario. We want to be very sure that each member of the class of '39 receives this bulletin - therefore will you please fill out and send the enclosed acknowledgement by return mail.

Look at the enclosed recently updated address list and if you know of any changes please advise. Does anybody know where Helen Gould is? of Rhoda Wood's new surname and address?

SEE YOU AT THE 40TH.

*ans Nov 12*

*SUN NOV 12*

*BROWNIE CALLED*

*IRAN WAFFLE &  
he will mail 30  
brochures to Mary Mun  
estate price*

*Marge Frimidge  
Joan Hillary*





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